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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,921	03/08/2005	Johannes Marra	NL 020877	7555
24737	7590	07/13/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			DZIERZYNSKI, EVAN P	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2875	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

3/

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/526,921	MARRA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Evan Dzierzynski	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/8/2005
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “element positioned centrally underneath a corresponding interstitial region between adjacent microprisms” of claim 15 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: The limitations of claim 15 are not shown by the drawings. A directing assembly wherein each element is positioned centrally underneath a corresponding interstitial region between adjacent microprisms is not shown in the drawings. The interstitial regions are not shown as being directly under the reflector elements. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hou et al. (US Pat 5839823).

As for claim 1, Hou et al. discloses a light source 112, a light-directing assembly 120 in close proximity to the light source comprising a plurality of microprisms 122, each microprism comprising an input surface (bottom of 122) that admits light radiating from the light source, an output surface (top of 122) distal from and parallel to the input surface, and at least one sidewall 136 disposed between and contiguous with the input and output surfaces. Hou et al. also discloses that the sidewall forms an obtuse tilt angle (col 3, ln 2+) with respect to the input surface and is positioned for effecting total reflection (abstract) of the light rays received by the input surface, the sidewalls of the microprisms defining interstitial regions (col 4, ln 46+) between the microprisms. Hou et al. also teaches at least one blocking means (col 2, ln 1-3) positioned to block the

passage of light through the sidewalls, and an optical means 400 located between the light source and the light-directing assembly, characterized in that the optical means comprises a reflective powder (col 2, ln 34+) to at least substantially shield the blocking means from direct exposure to light radiated from the light source.

As for claim 2, Hou et al. discloses that the reflective powder is a diffuse reflective powder (col 2, ln 36+).

As for claim 3, Hou et al. discloses that the powder comprises BaSO₄ particles (col 4, ln 50+).

As for claim 8, Hou et al. further discloses that the powder is free-flowing, since Hou et al. teaches using a dry powder (col 4, line 53).

As for claim 9, Hou et al. discloses that the reflective powder is incapable of absorbing light (col 4, ln 57-59).

As for claim 10, Hou et al. teaches that the blocking means is provided on a surface directly adjacent to the sidewalls of neighboring microprisms (col 7, ln 38-42).

As for claims 11-13, Hou et al. further discloses a blocking means comprising an aluminum layer that is provided on the sidewalls of the microprisms (col 4, ln 63+).

As for claim 14, Hou et al. further discloses that the powder is contained in the interstitial regions between the microprisms (col 4, ln 45+).

As for claim 15, Hou et al. further discloses that the powder is contained in a series of reflector elements 128 supported by a base plate 124 at least substantially extending in parallel with the light-directing assembly (Fig 2) and wherein each element

is positioned centrally underneath a corresponding interstitial region between adjacent microprisms.

As for claim 16, Hou et al. discloses that the area of each reflector element facing the light source corresponds to the projected cross-section area of a corresponding interstitial region facing the light source the projection carried out on an imaginary plane extending in parallel with the light-directing assembly at the location of and containing the input surfaces (Fig 2).

As for claim 17, Hou et al. discloses the relative dimensions of the device (col 2, ln 46-63). It is apparent that from the dimensions discussed that the width of the interstitial regions is at least 1 mm and wherein the height thereof is at least 1 mm.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hou et al.

As for claims 4, 5 and 6, Hou et al. teaches the use of dry powder as a reflective filler material (col 4, ln 48-53) and teaches the use of aluminum as a powder for use with the device (col 2, ln 35-38) but fails to teach that the diameter size and the weight percentage of the particles discussed. It would have been obvious to make the aluminum particles in the range of 10 to 50 nm and between 0.1 and 5 wt. %, and to

make the diameter of the particles range between 0.1 and 100 micrometer, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only ordinary skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hou et al. in view of Mizobe (US Pat 5249104).

Hou et al. discloses the device as discussed above but fails to teach or disclose that the powder is mixed with color pigments. In a similar device, Mizobe teaches the use of color pigment powder (col 4, ln 23). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the color pigments of Mizobe with the device of Hou et al. in order to provide the device with a means of creating color. One would have been motivated to combine the color pigments of Mizobe with the device of Hou et al. where it is desired to have a colored illumination device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evan Dzierzynski whose telephone number is (571)-272-2336. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00 am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on M-F (571)-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Evan Dzierzynski

7/5/2006



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